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news release

Senate Select Committee

on Intelligence

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STAFF DIRECTOR NOMINATION

Senator Dave Durenberger (R-MN), Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, announced today that he intends to poll Committee Members on the nomination of Bernard F. McMahon, Jr. as Staff Director. Under Committee rules, all staff appointments must be agreed to by a majority of the 15 Members.

Mr. McMahon, 45, most recently served as Special Assistant to General John Vessey, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. During a 24-year career, he has served as Executive Director for the Director of Central Intelligence, as a naval task force commander, as Chief of Staff of the 6th Fleet, and as a Special Assistant to then-Secretary of the Navy John Warner, as well as in other senior positions.

He holds a B.S. degree from Holy Cross College and a M.S. degree in International Relations from The American University. His military decorations include the Purple Heart, the Distinguished Service Medal, and 12 other medals. Mr. McMahon and his wife Ellen live in Washington, and have a 17-year old daughter, Farrell, and a 15-year old son, Bernard III.

"I'm delighted to nominate Bernie McMahon," Chairman Durenberger said. "His training, experience, and personal qualities are outstanding, and I know that my colleagues on the Committee are going to be as excited about working with Bernie as I am."

Upon confirmation by the Intelligence Committee, Mr. McMahon will supervise a staff of 42 people. He will succeed Robert R. Simmons, who recently left the Committee after four years to return to Connecticut where he will pursue academic interests.

"This nomination is a real honor," said McMahon, "and if I am appointed, I know the job will be extremely exciting. The Committee plays a vital role in our intelligence process, and I look forward to working with the staff and the Committee Members."

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